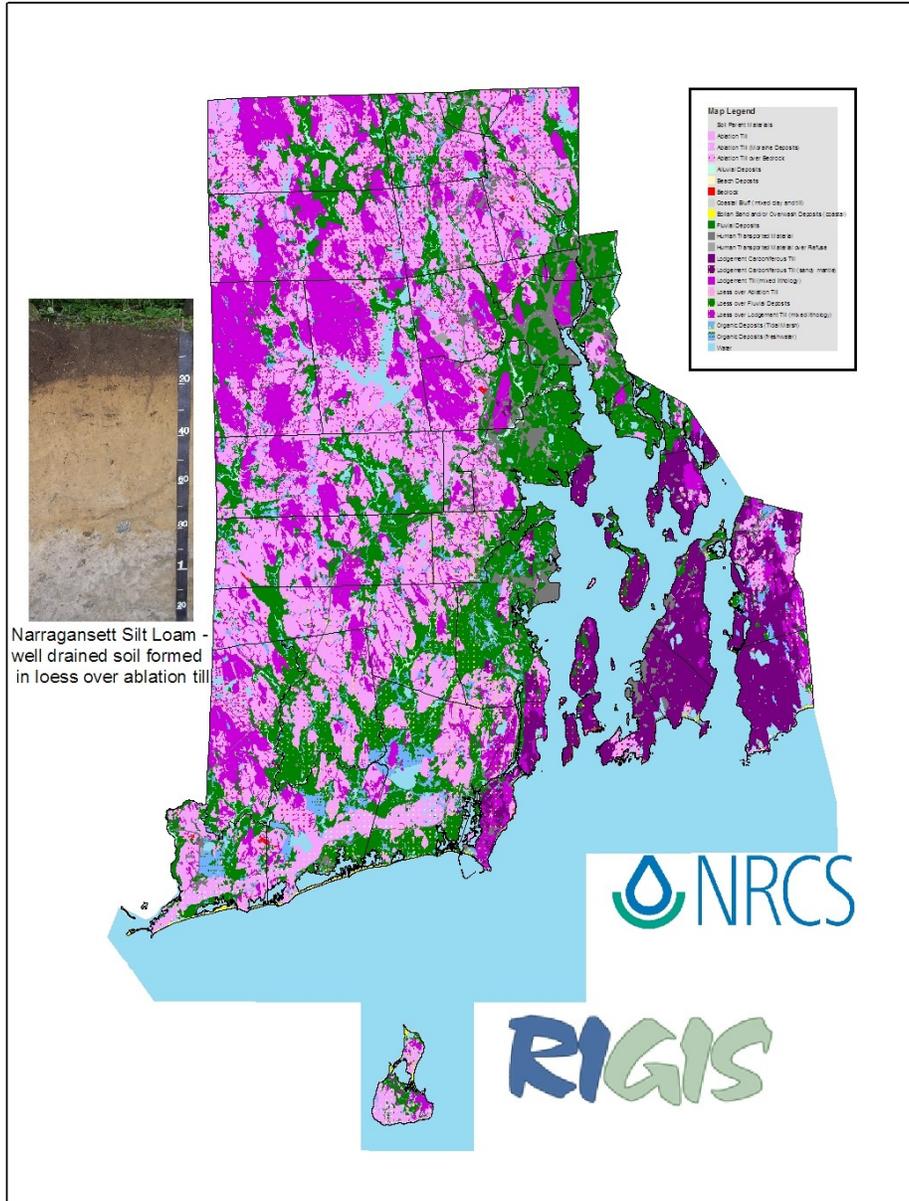


2008 RIGIS Soil Attribute Table Descriptions

(December 2008)



Prepared by: Rhode Island USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service

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<http://www.ri.nrcs.usdagov/technical/soils.html>

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The following Shape Files are included with the RIGIS Soils data:

Rigis_soils_points_2008.shp – Special point features such as wet spots, bedrock outcrops, etc. Descriptions are at end of document.

Rigis_soils_lines_2008.shp – Special line features such as short steep slopes and escarpments. Descriptions are at end of document.

Rigis_soils_polygons_2008.shp – Soil map unit polygons – described below.

Layer (*.lyr) and AVL (ArcView Legend) files - also included to provide attribute descriptions and color codes. Layer files labeled with 92 (Bedrock92.lyr) are for ArcMap 9.2 users and those without a number (Bedrock.lyr) are for 9.1 users.

Background:

The attribute data contained in the RIGIS_Soils_Polygons_2008 Shape file has been revised from the 1996 RIGIS soils coverage (RIsoils_e00.zip). **No** changes have been made to date to the spatial (points, lines and polygons) data but plans are underway to update the soil mapping in the next few years. This data is **NOT** the official USDA-NRCS SSURGO Soils Data for Rhode Island, although the spatial data contained is identical to the RI600 spatial data that is available as of November 2008. The source for official USDA-NRCS soils data is from the Soil Data Mart (<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>) or the Web Soil Survey IMS site (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>).

Methodology:

The methodology for creating and updating the RIGIS_Soils_Polygons_2008 shape file is as follows:

The spatial data (points, lines, and polygons) was downloaded from the USDA-NRCS Soil Data Mart in NAD 1983 UTM Zone 19 Meters projection on November 2008 (metadata for this data set is at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Metadata.aspx?Survey=RI600&UseState=RI>). The UTM data was re-projected to NAD 1983 RI State Plane Feet projection using ArcToolbox projection utility. The original attribute table from the 1996 RIGIS coverage was exported to a DBF table (called “soilattr”) for each soil name field. This data was then reviewed and modified to match current soil interpretations (from the Soil Data Mart reports), checked for possible errors, formatting changes, and additional fields added. The “soilattr.dbf” table was then joined to the attribute table from the SSURGO data (Musym field of the SSURGO soils was joined with the Soil_name field of the soilattri.dbf table) and the RIGIS_Soils_Polygons_2008.shp was created. The point and line special features shape files were also re-projected to RI SPF NAD 83 coordinates.

Following are explanations of each of the attribute fields contained in the RIGIS_Soils_Polygons_2008 shape file and information provided for the fields and cells where changes were made to the 1996 RIGIS soil attribute table. For more information contact the RI Soil Survey Program at 401-828-1300 or jim.turenne@ri.usda.gov.

Attribute Fields

Field: *Areasymbol*

Source: SSURGO Data

Description: Note: This field can be deleted. This is the Soil Survey Area code from the SSURGO data – all cells are RI600.

Online Linkage: <http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/ssurgo/>

Field: *A_tex*

Source: 1996 RIGIS – minor formatting changes made.

Description: Texture of the A horizon surface layer (topsoil), usually the most common texture from an allowed range. See next table below for descriptions of the feature ID.

Field: *B_tex*

Source: 1996 RIGIS – minor formatting changes made.

Description: Texture of the subsoils layer at 20 - 24" depth, usually in the B horizon. Only One texture is listed. See table below for descriptions of the feature ID.

Online Linkage: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#68>

Feature ID	USDA Texture Name
FSL	Fine sandy loam
GR-S	Gravelly sand
GR-SL	Gravelly sandy loam
GR-SL/SIL	Gravelly sandy loam/Silt loam
LFS	Loamy fine sand
LS	Loamy sand
S	Sand
S+GR	Sand and gravel
SIL	Silt loam
SL	Sandy Loam
UWB	Unweathered Bedrock
CN-SIL	Channery silt loam
FS	Fine sand
VGR-SL	Very gravelly sandy loam

Representative soil textures have been added to the RIGIS data set for the A (surface or topsoil) and B (subsoil) horizons. The textures entered are representative for the soil and were taken from the latest official soil series descriptions and from the soil series descriptions included in the Soil Survey of Rhode Island. A series of decisions and assumptions were made in entering this data:

- The textures listed are to be used as a general guide and are not intended to eliminate the need to check the more detailed source materials.
- The A horizon was assumed to be the upper 8-10 inches of the soil.
- The B horizon texture represents the texture at a depth of 20-24 inches. Some soils, such as the very poorly drained series, do not have a B horizon. They are A/C soils. In these instances, the texture entered under B is actually the C horizon texture at the 20-24 in. depth.
- Only one texture is listed per horizon for each soil series in a mapping unit, even though there usually is a range of textures for each horizon. It is very important to remember that the single texture listed is almost always part of an acceptable range of textures for that soil. The textures listed are the more commonly found in Rhode Island. As an example, in most cases a soil listed as having a sandy loam (sl) texture in the B horizon could alternatively have a fine sandy loam, gravelly sandy loam, or gravelly fine sandy loam texture. The full range of permitted textures for each soil was not entered because it would result in a very large and unwieldy data set.
- The multi-taxa map units, such as the Hinckley-Enfield complex, which consist of two soil series with widely differing textures, have a texture listed for each series. The Hinckley-Enfield A horizon texture is listed as "gr-sl/sil", which means the probable texture is either gravelly sandy loam or silt loam at any given spot on the landscape. Most soil map units, however, have only one texture listed for each horizon.
- Gravelly textures are listed only when it is the dominant condition. Many soils have rock fragment contents ranging from non-gravelly to gravelly. It is important to remember that a soil listed as having fine sandy loam (fsl) texture may have a gravelly analogue.

Stony and very stony surface textures are not listed. Many soils have stony phases. If information on surface stoniness is needed, sort data by the stoniness attribute.

Field: *Bedrock* (rockiness, percent bedrock outcrop, and shallow soils).

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Bedrock group - indicates percent of surface area covered by bedrock and/or shallow to bedrock soil. The table below describes the feature ID. Load the "Bedrock(92)".lyr file for descriptions.

Field ID	Percent Surface Covered by Outcrops
1	0-1
2	1-10
3	5-10
4	10-30
5	30-80
6	80-100

Field: *B_perm*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: B horizon permeability group. See next table for descriptions.

Field: *C_perm*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: C horizon permeability group. See table below for descriptions.

Online Linkage: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#50>

NOTE: The term “permeability” is an outdated term in soil survey, it has been replaced by saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat):

Soil permeability groupings have been prepared for both the B and C horizons:

Field ID	Permeability Range (inches/hour)
1	<0.2
2	0.2-0.6
3	0.6-2.0
4	0.6-6.0
5	0.6-20.0
6	2.0-6.0
7	2.0-20.0
8	>2.0
9	6.0-20.0
9.9	Too variable to rate
10	>6.0
11	>20
12	<0.2 or 0.6-20.0
13	<0.2 or Too variable to rate
14	0.6-2.0 or 0.6-6.0
15	0.6-2.0 or Too variable to rate
16	0.6-6.0 or Too variable to rate
17	0.6-6.0 or 2.0-6.0
18	2.0-6.0 or Too variable to rate
19	0.6-6.0 or >2.0
20	0.6-2.0 or 6.0-20.0
21	0.6-6.0 or 6.0-20.0
22	6.0-20.0 or >6.0
23	6.0-20.0 or >20.0
24	6.0-20.0 or Too variable to rate
25	>6.0 or >20.0

The water table depths used in the grouping system are taken from the current NRCS Soil Interpretation Record (form SOI 5) rather than the Soil Survey of Rhode Island

- Group 1 includes the Stissing series (0.06 - 0.2 inches/hour in the C horizon) and the Pittstown series (0.06 - 0.6 inches/hour in the C horizon). They were included to make the Stissing and Pittstown series consistent with the other hardpan soils in RI.

- Groups 12 through 24 represent multi-taxa mapping units. These map units contain two or more named soils that have different permeabilities. Soil map units in Group 12, for example, consist of two soils, one of which has a permeability of <0.2 inches/hour and the other, a permeability of 0.6 - 20 in./hr. Depending on which soil exists on a specific site, the permeability rating is 0.2 or 0.6 - 20.

Field: *Cap_cls*

Source: New Field

Description Capability classes and subclasses - the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. The soils are classed according to their limitations when they are used for field crops, the risk of damage when they are used, and the way they respond to treatment. The grouping does not take into account major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils; does not take into consideration possible but unlikely major reclamation projects; and does not apply to rice, cranberries, horticultural crops, or other crops that require special management. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations designed to show suitability and limitations-of groups of soils for rangeland, for forest trees, or for engineering purposes. The table below describes each field code.

Online Linkage: <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/capclass.html>

Field ID	Description
1	Class I soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
2	Class II soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.
3	Class III soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, or that require special conservation practices, or both.
4	Class IV soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, or that require very careful management, or both.
5	Class V soils are not likely to erode but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that limit their use.
6	Class VI soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation.
7	Class VII soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation.
8	Class VIII soils and landforms have limitations that nearly preclude their use for commercial crop production.

Capability subclasses are soil groups within one class; they are designated by adding a small letter, e, w, s, or c, to the class numeral, for example, IIe. The letter e shows that the main limitation is risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained; w shows that water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage); s shows that the soil is limited mainly because it is shallow, droughty, or stony; and c, used in only some parts of the United States, shows that the chief limitation is climate that is too cold or too dry.

In class I there are no subclasses because the soils of this class have few limitations (NOTE: The digital data has subclasses added to class I soils due to database constraints, please ignore the subclass on class I soils). Class V contains only the subclasses indicated by w, s, or c because the soils in class V are subject to little or no erosion, though they have other limitations that restrict their use to pasture, rangeland, woodland, wildlife habitat, or recreation.

Dual Classes: On the digital soil attribute data some Capability classes and subclasses have dual ratings separated by a / for example 7s/8. This is used for soil complex map units where the two soils in the complex have different classes. In map unit complexes where both soils have the same capability class the / is not used.

Field: Code

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Numeric code of 0 and 1. Unsure of use of this field, but appears to be for hydric soil ratings, 0 being non-hydric map units and 1 being hydric soils (poorly and very poorly drained). Use the “Code(92).lyr” file.

Field: Corros

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Corrosion potential of the soil on buried uncoated steel (L = Low, M = Moderate, H = High). Load the “Corros(92).lyr” file for descriptions.

Online Linkage: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#12>

Field: Describe

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: A textual description of the soil characteristic(s) as per RIDOA/USDA-SCS definitions for the municipal comprehensive plan map series project of July 1990. Load the “Describe(92).lyr” file for codes.

Field: Devgroup

Source: 1996 RIGIS - Minor changes in the RIGIS attribute: well drained, dense till soils changed to 2 – Paxton for example). Load the “Devgroup(92).lyr” file for codes.

Description: Numeric code from 0 to 5. Restrictions or constraints to residential or commercial development.

Field ID	Description
1	Development Group A-Few restrictions to development with on site septic
2	Development Group B-Seasonal high water table from 3.5 to 1.5 feet.
3	Development Group C-Steep slopes in excess or 15 percent.
4	Development Group D-Water at or near the surface - hydric soils.
5	Development Group E-Significant constraints to development.

Field: Drainage**Source:** 1996 RIGIS**Description:** Natural soil drainage classes for the soil map unit.**Online Linkage:** <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#17><http://soils.usda.gov/technical/manual/contents/chapter3c.html#27>

Natural drainage class refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil developed. Alteration of the water regime by humans, either through drainage or irrigation, is not a consideration unless the alterations have significantly changed the morphology of the soil. The classes follow:

Field Code	Description
ED	Excessively Drained
SWED	Somewhat Excessively Drained
WD	Well Drained
MWD	Moderately Well Drained
PD	Poorly Drained
VPD	Very Poorly Drained

Dual classes (ED and WD) are labeled for soil complexes with two different drainage classes. Bridgehampton soils are listed as WD to MWD due to the morphology and hydrology of the soil.

Field: Erosion**Source:** 1996 RIGIS

Description: Soil erosion potential of the soil. Number listed is the "k" value of the soil at depth of 24 - 30 ". This depth may not be appropriate for some users of the data. These values are NOT the same as the Kw value in the Soil Data Mart reports.

Online Linkage: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#55>**Field: Farmland****Source:** 1996 RIGIS

Description: Numeric code for the USDA-NRCS Farmland designation, this designation is also in the "Prime" field which has the designation in an alpha string. Load the "Farmland(92).lyr" file for codes.

Online Linkage: <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/primefarmlands.html>

Field Id	Description
0	Soil map units are neither Prime nor State-wide Important soils (not rated).
1	Prime Farmland Soil Map Units
2	State-wide Important Soil Map Units

Field: *Helrate***Source:** New field**Description:** This field provides information on the erodibility rating of the soil (used for USDA-NRCS program ratings).**Online Linkage:** <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/highlyerodible.html>

Field ID	Description
HEL	Highly erodible soil map unit
PHEL	Potential highly erodible soil map unit
Not Rated	Not rated, miscellaneous unit, etc.

Field: *Hydric***Source:** 1996 RIGIS**Description:** Hydric soil field. Y = Yes soil map unit is dominantly hydric soils, N = No soil map unit is dominantly non-hydric soils. User must be cautioned; non hydric soil map units can contain hydric inclusions and vice versa, also use the point file to look for wet spot symbols. The definition of a hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Load the “Hydric(92).lyr” file for codes.**Online Linkage:** <http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric/>**Field: *Hydro_grou*****Source:** 1996 RIGIS (modified slightly by adding / for soil complexes with two different hydro groups.**Description:** Hydrologic group of the soil map unit. Load the “Hydro_Grou(92).lyr” file for codes.**Online Linkage:** <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part618.html#36>

Groups with multiple listings such as A/B are used for soil complexes with two or more soils with different hydrologic groups such as HnC – Hinckley and Enfield soils. The first letter gives the hydrologic group for the first named soil (Hinckley = A), the second is for the second name soil (Enfield = B), and so on. This is different that dual groups used in the national system. No dual groups defined in the National Soil Survey Handbook (drained Vs. undrained, fractured bedrock Vs. non fractured) are used in RI. VAR means hydro group is variable and on-site investigation required.

Field ID	Description
A	Saturated hydraulic conductivity is <i>very high</i> or in the upper half of high and internal free water occurrence is <i>very deep</i>
B	Saturated hydraulic conductivity is in the lower half of high or in the upper half of moderately high and free water occurrence is deep or very deep
C	Saturated hydraulic conductivity is in the lower half of moderately high or in the upper half of moderately low and internal free water occurrence is deeper than shallow.
D	Saturated hydraulic conductivity is below the upper half of moderately low, and/or internal free water occurrence is shallow or very shallow and transitory through permanent

The criteria are guidelines only. They are based on the assumption that the minimum saturated hydraulic conductivity occurs within the uppermost 0.5 m. If the minimum occurs between 0.5 and 1 m, then saturated hydraulic conductivity for the purpose of placement is increased one class. If the minimum occurs below 1 m, then the value for the soil is based on values above 1 m using the rules as previously given

Field: *Isds_class*

Source: New

Description: This field lists the soil class used in the RI Septic System regulations (<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/pubs/regs/regs/water/isdsregs.pdf>). It provides the soil class outlined in section SD 26.01b of the regulation. NOTE: This field is intended to provide general site information and does NOT take place of an onsite investigation.

Field ID	Description
A	Class A -Glacial Lodgement Till: Silt loam to loamy sand texture. Lower profiles tend to have a platy structure and are dense to very dense. Excavation is difficult. High probability of hydraulically restrictive lower layers. Angular rock fragments and occasional cobbles and stones.
B	Class B -Glacial Ablation Till: Silt loam to loamy sand throughout the profile. Lower horizons tend to be more sandy. These soils tend to be looser than lodgement tills and typically do not have hydraulically restrictive layers. Lower horizons may be firm. Angular rock fragments and occasional cobbles and stones.
C	Class C -Proglacial Outwash Deposit: Also referred to as stratified drift, soil textures range from silt loam to loamy sand (in the upper horizons) to a sandy/ gravelly substratum. Stratified layers of water sorted materials may be present. Entire profile tends to be loose and easy to dig except saturated horizons may be firm or cemented or both. Horizons of rounded rock fragments are common. A silty eolian mantle may also be present.
D	Class D -Glacial Ice Contact Deposit: Outwash deposits of well to poorly sorted sands and gravel. Texture can be highly variable over short distances and may include pockets or lenses of silt or silt loam. Stratification may be irregular or absent. Sub-rounded to rounded stones and cobbles are possible.
E	Class E -Coastal Dune Deposit: Fine to coarse sands, well sorted, often finely stratified. Little or no silt and clay. Typically no sediment larger than coarse sand. Deposited by wind action or storm overwash.
F	Class F -Alluvial Deposits: Material transported and deposited by streams and rivers. Typically well sorted, stratified, fine textured sediment that may have dark layers in the substratum which were at one time surface layers. Subject to seasonal flooding.
G	Class G -Eolian Deposits: Wind blown silts deposited after the retreat of the Wisconsin glaciation. Typically brown to dark brown silt ranging in thickness of several inches to several feet. Underlain by outwash, ablation till, or lodgement till.
F	Class H -(NOT IN ISDS REGS) -Human transported material (fill).

I	Class I (NOT IN ISDS REGS) – Organic Soils.
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Field: *Muname*

Source: New

Description: The soil map unit name used in the published Soil Survey of Rhode Island.

Field: *Musym*

Source: SSURGO

Description: This is the map unit symbol field from the SSURGO data it is identical to the Soil_name field which is the abbreviation for common name given to the soil mapping unit. The field may be need for joining fields with SSURGO data for use with the soil data viewer.

Online Linkage: <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soillegend.html>

Field: *Mukey*

Source: SSURGO

Description: The Map Unit Key field is a unique identifier of the SSURGO soils data that allows the spatial data to be linked with the tabular data when using the Soil Data Viewer program (<http://soildataviewer.nrcs.usda.gov/>) or the access tabular data.

Field: *Ord_symb* (woodland suitability)

Source: New

Description: This field contains the “Ordination Symbol” for woodland suitability which is provided in Table 17 of the published survey. The first part of the ordination symbol, a number, indicates the potential productivity of the soils for important trees. The number 1 indicates very high productivity; 2, high; 3, moderately high; 4, moderate; and 5, low. The second part of the symbol, a letter, indicates the major soil limitation. The letter x indicates stoniness or rockiness; w, excessive water in or on the soil; d, restrictive root dept; s, sandy soil textures; and r, steep slopes. The letter o indicates insignificant limitations.

Field: *Parent_m*

Source: New

Description: This field provides information about the parent material in which the soil formed. The soil parent material is one of the major factors of soil formation used to differentiate many of the soils in the northeast and many interpretations are made based on the type of parent material. The parent material is also used when making soil evaluations for septic systems in RI (see the Isds_class field). NOTE: most upland soils in RI have a thin, 15 to 35 inch eolian (wind deposited) mantle of loamy sand to silt loam material overlying the glacial material. This eolian material is not included in the field except for soil which formed in thick deposits of silt loam textured material referred to as loess or when the mantle is sandy material underlain by till. The table below describes the field. Load the “Parent_m(92).lyr” file for codes.

Field ID	Description
Ablation Till	Unsorted, non-stratified material deposited by glacial ice and consisting of a heterogeneous mixture of clay to boulder size particles. Ablation till is very variable but tends to be loose and dominantly sandy, but may have lenses of firm loamy material.
Ablation Till (Moraine Deposits)	Areas of Ablation Till mapped on moraines such as the Charlestown End Moraine.
Ablation Till over Bedrock	These map units consist of bedrock-controlled landforms. The soils formed in ablation till (described above) and have ledge or bedrock typically within 6 feet of the surface. These soils are mapped in a complex of shallow, moderately deep, and very deep soils.
Alluvial Deposits	Material deposited in modern-day floodplains.
Bedrock	Areas almost entirely consisting of bedrock and shallow to bedrock soils. Refer to the bedrock geology map of RI for information about the type of bedrock in the area.
Coastal Bluff (mixed clay and till)	used only along the shoreline escarpment of Block Island (map unit UBE). These deposits consist of mixed thrust coastal plain clays and till material.
Eolian Sand and/or Overwash Deposits	dune and back barrier Holocene deposits adjacent to beaches along the south shore and shoreline areas (map unit UAB).
Fluvial Deposits (glacial outwash)	Stratified deposits of sand and gravel deposited by glacial melt-water streams (also includes fluviodeltaic deposits).
Human Transported Material	Commonly referred to as fill, human - altered/transported material includes a variety of soil and geologic material deposited by human activity.
Human Transported Material over Refuse	Active and inactive refuse (landfills, dumps, etc.) areas.
Lodgement Carboniferous Till (also called basal or dense till)	Unsorted, non-stratified material deposited by glacial ice and consisting of a heterogeneous mixture of clay to boulder size particles. Lodgement till is usually found on drumlins and till uplands. Lodgement till tends to have a higher percentage of silt and clay than ablation till and is usually very dense. This group is for areas of lodgement till derived from dark colored mineralogy associated with the Narragansett Basin Bedrock (Carboniferous in age).
Lodgement Carboniferous Till (sandy mantled)	Same as above but these map units have a sandy to loamy sand mantle (Poquonock and Birchwood Soils). NOTE: This coding does not include those areas where the sandy mantle is very thick and was mapped as glacial fluvial soils (Windsor and Agawam) these areas will show up as fluvial soils even though they are underlain by carboniferous till or bedrock.
Lodgement Till (mixed lithology)	Unsorted, non-stratified material deposited by glacial ice and consisting of a heterogeneous mixture of clay to boulder size particles. Lodgement till is usually found on drumlins and till ridges. Lodgement till tends to have a higher percentage of silt and clay than ablation till and is usually very dense.
Loess over Ablation Till	These soils formed in silt loam textured loess overlying sandy, ablation till.
Loess over Fluvial	These soils formed in silt loam textured loess overlying fluvial deposits.

Loess over Lodgement Till	These soils formed in silt-loam textured loess overlying lodgement (dense) till deposits (mixed lithology).
Organic Deposits	Includes both fresh and tidal organic soils formed in more than 16 inches of organic material. For tidal organic areas, Matunuck soils are included even though the organic thickness is less than 16 inches

Field: *Prime*

Source: New

Description: This field provides the farmland rating of the soil. P, indicates the map unit is Prime Farmland; SI, indicates Statewide Important soil map units; N, indicates the soil is not rated for farmland. Load the “Prime(92).lyr” file for codes.

Online Linkage: <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/primefarmlands.html>

Field: *Rav*

Source: New

Description: Relative Agricultural Value. This is a numeric rating from 100 (best) to 0 (worst) of the soil map unit for agricultural production. This number is used for rating the soil for agricultural uses.

Field: *Restrict*

Source: 1996 RIGIS (minor formatting changes and some units changed to better reflect modern interpretations). Load the “Restrict(92).lyr” file for codes.

Description: Restrictions of soil to support traditional septic systems.

Field: *Septic*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Suitability for on-site septic absorption fields (Slight, Moderate, Severe). Multitaxa soil map units (complexes) often have dual ratings

Field: *Shwt*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Seasonal high water table. Number given is the water table group. Table below provides field descriptions.

The following seasonal high water table depth groupings have been established:

Group Number	Depth (in feet above + or below – soil surface) to Water Table
1	+1.0-0.0
2	+1.0-0.5
3	+1.0-1.0
4	+0.5-1.0
5	0.0-1.0
6	0.0-1.5
7	1.5-3.5 [†]
8	2.0-4.0*
9	>6.0
99**	Too variable to rate

The water table depths used in the grouping system are taken from the published (archived) NRCS Soil Interpretation Record (form SOI 5), with the following exceptions:

- [†]Group 7 has water table depths of 1.5-2.5 feet on the current NRCS form SOI 5. In the Soil Survey of Rhode Island, however, the Group 7 soils have water table depths ranging from 1.0 or 1.5 feet to 3.0 or 3.5 feet. It has been decided to standardize the water table depths of these moderately well drained soils at 1.5-3.5 feet since this is how they were mapped in the field. Valuable information would be lost if these soils were rated as having water table depths of 1.5-2.5 feet as the current Soil Interpretations Records show. In making this decision it is recognized the rules of soil taxonomy are not being met, specifically the depth criteria for soil mottling in the Aquic subgroups. The trade off is whether to strictly use the rules of taxonomy or to use the information as it was gathered in the field. Most users in RI felt the emphasis should be on having the most useful data entered into the RIGIS, hence the decision to use 1.5-3.5 foot depths for the moderately well drained soils. Map unit UAB has also been changed to 7.
- * Group 8 soils were formerly listed in the 1996 RIGIS as > 6.0 feet for most of the year. Group 8 is now listed as having a water table between 2 and 4 feet below the surface, this group is used for soils are considered "well drained" that formed in lodgement till (Paxton, Newport, etc.). These soils typically have perched (oxyaquic) water tables during the winter and spring and following major precipitation events. The water table generally last until late May, early June then drops once plant growth begins. They are not major concerns for septic systems but can cause wet basements and other problems where drainage is a concern.
- ** This group was listed as 9.9 in 1996 RIGIS, now changed to 99. It is used for areas of bedrock, urban land, and human transported material that require onsite investigation to determine the water table depth.
- For “official” or updated data on season high water table depths visit the soil data mart (<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Survey.aspx?State=RI>).

Field: *Slope*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Slope of the land. Number given is the slope group. The table below has the field information.

SLOPE GROUP NO.	PERCENT SLOPE RANGE
1	0-1%
2	0-2%
3	0-3%
4	0-8%
5	0-15%
6	0-25%
7	0-35%
8	0-50%
9	3-8%
10	3-15%
11	8-15%
12	15-25%
13	15-35%
14	25-65%

Slopes for each soil map unit are as listed in the "Soil Survey of Rhode Island", except:

- Those map units which have no slope range listed in the Soil Survey, such as GBC, GBD, UAB, UBE, etc, have been assigned to a slope group based on a review of the National Soils Handbook and/or the appropriate Soil Interpretation Record (NRCS form SOI-5).
- Three map units were assigned to soil slope groups that differ slightly from the slope ranges shown for these soils in the Soil Survey. These changes were made to eliminate the need to set up three more slope groups, each of which would have only one soil map unit in it, and would nearly duplicate another group. The differences in the slope ranges are so small as to be of little significance. These soils are:

Map Symbol	Percent Slope in Soil Survey	Assigned Slope Range
NP	1-15%	0-15%
Pk	0-4%	0-3%
Ur	0-10%	0-8%

Field: *Soil_name*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Same field as Musym. The abbreviation for common name given to the soil map unit (same as the MUSYM field)

Online Linkage: <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soillegend.html>

Field: *Soil_num*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Unique numeric value from 1 to 112 for each soil mapping unit. Used to join tables, field can be deleted if not used.

Field: *Stone*

Source: 1996 RIGIS

Description: Stoniness group. Indicates the percent of the land surface covered by stones and boulders. Please note the mapping for RI was performed during the 1960-1970s and has not been updated, land-use changes have not been updated. See table below for attribute descriptions.

Field ID	Percent Surface Covered by Stones/boulders	Descriptive Name
1	0-2	Nonstony, Stony
2	2-10	Very Stony
3	10-35	Extremely Stony

Field: *URL*

Source: New

Description: This field contains the Uniform Resource Locator (internet URL) which links the soil polygon to map unit description provided in the published soil survey. This field works as a “Hot Link” field for linking the soil polygons to the map unit. To use this in ArcView use the hot link feature, ArcMap users can click the URL from the identify window to link to the map unit description.

AD-HOC SPOT SYMBOLS (SPECIAL FEATURES, POINTS AND LINES)

Background:

Special Soil Features represent soil, miscellaneous area, or landform features that are too small to be digitized as soil delineations (area features or map unit polygons). Special Soil Features labels represent specific Special Soil Features. These features are identified with a descriptive label. The label is assigned to the point or line assigned to represent the feature on maps.

These AD-HOC spot symbols are used on soil survey maps to locate special areas, features, and soil inclusions which were too small to delineate at the scale of mapping or provide useful information about an area. The RI Soil Survey was mapped at a 1:15,840 scale with minimum polygon size ranging from 3 to 6 acres in size. In certain areas where the soil surveyor identified a special area or inclusion that had major differences in interpretations from the mapped soil in the area, a spot symbol was placed on the map.

Online Linkage:

Visit: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/contents/part627.html#ex5>

<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/manual/contents/chapter4c.html#16>

Agricultural Handbook 18, Soil Survey Manual, 1993, USDA, SCS; National Soil Survey Handbook, Title 430-VI, part 647 (current issue), USDA, NRCS

Methodology:

NOTE: The special feature point files were downloaded from the Soil Data Mart and re-projected to RI State Plane, NAD 83, feet coordinates using the ArcToolBox Projection Utility. Cultural features such as cemeteries, bunkers, and schools which are delineated in the published Soil Survey of Rhode Island were not digitized and are not provided on this file.

Rigis_soils_points_2008.shp – Special line features such as short steep slopes and escarpments.

Field_ID	feat_name	Feature Description
GPI	Gravel Pit	An open excavation from which soil and underlying material has been removed, and used without crushing, as a source of sand and gravel. Typically 1 to 3 acres.
MPI	Mine or quarry (pit)	An open excavation from which soil and underlying material is removed exposing the bedrock. Also used to denote surface openings to underground mines. Typically 1 to 3 acres.
ROC	Rock outcrop	An exposure of bedrock at the surface of the earth. Not used where the named soils in the surrounding map unit are shallow over bedrock. Typically 1 to 3 acres.
STV	Very stony spot	An area with more than 3 percent of the surface covered by rock fragments that are greater than 10 inches in diameter. Typically 1 to 3 acres.
WET	Wet spot	Somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained area that is at least 2 drainage classes wetter than the named soils in the surrounding map unit. Typically 1 to 3 acres.

Rigis_soils_lines_2008.shp – Special point features such as wet spots, bedrock outcrops, etc.

Field ID	Feature Name	Description
ESB	Escarpment, Bedrock	A relatively continuous and steep slope or cliff produced by erosion or faulting breaking the general continuity of more gently sloping land surfaces. Exposed material is hard or soft bedrock.
SLP	Short Steep Slope	Narrow soil area that has slopes that are at least 2 slope classes steeper than the slope class of the surrounding named map unit.

End